



**Recommendation for
Water & Wastewater Commission**

Commission Meeting Date:	May 11, 2016
Council Meeting Date:	May 19, 2016
Department:	Purchasing
SUBJECT	
Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with NEWGEN STRATEGIES & SOLUTIONS, LLC to advocate on behalf of residential customers during the cost of service rate study in an amount not to exceed \$162,550.	
AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING	
Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Capital Budget of the Austin Water.	
Purchasing Language:	The Purchasing Office issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) CDL2005 for these services on March 14, 2016 and it closed on April 5, 2016 with three offers received. The recommended offer is the best evaluated offer submitted by a responsible offeror. Additional information on the solicitation is included below the line.
Prior Council Action:	N/A
For More Information:	Danielle Lord, 512-974-2298; Joseph Gonzales, 512-972-0131
Boards and Commission Action:	May 11, 2016- To be reviewed by the Water and Wastewater Commission.
MBE/WBE:	This solicitation was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program. For the services required for this solicitation, there were insufficient subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals.

The contract will provide rate advocacy services for Austin Water (AW) residential customer classes during the performance of the water, wastewater and reclaimed water utility cost of service study. The rate advocate will participate in the development of the cost of service study public involvement plan which outlines roles, assignment of tasks, details public involvement efforts, and develops approaches to incorporate outreach to community advocacy groups, which includes minority and economically disadvantaged customers.

The rate advocate will participate in the cost of service study, review current cost of service and rate design methodologies, discuss and analyze alternative methodologies, participate on the Public Involvement Committee. The rate advocate will also present to the Water and Wastewater Commission and Council as necessary, and identify any conflicts of interest that may interfere with or call into question the ability to effectively represent the AW ratepayers.

An evaluation team with expertise in this area evaluated the offers and scored NewGen Solutions & Strategies, LLC as the best to provide these services based on experience and qualifications, concept and program plan, cost, and local business presence.

This request allows for the development of a contract with a qualified offeror that Council selects. If the City is unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory contract with the selected offeror, negotiations will cease with that provider. Staff will return to Council so Council may select another qualified offeror and authorize contract negotiations with this provider.

If the City is unable to enter into a contract, AW will not be able to perform outreach efforts and address customer concerns or incorporate customer feedback in the cost of service rate study.

A complete solicitation package, including a response list, is on file in the City's Purchasing Office and is available on the City's Financial Services Austin Finance Online website. Link: [Solicitation Documents](#)